

Forget Me Not

Newsletter of Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc.

Winter 2013

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The **mission** of the Tampa Garden Club is to

build relationships through

education,

beautification and

preservation of our community.

YOUR GARDEN CLUB NEEDS YOU!!

If you have a particular area of interest and want to make a difference - start thinking about how you can make a contribution.

- ◆ You could chair or serve on a committee
- ◆ You could offer suggestions for program speakers.
- ◆ Step forward the next time

It has often been said that you get out of something what you put into it.

Shopping online? Raise funds for FFGC for garden clubs throughout the state. Use the link to Amazon from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' website, www.ffgc.org.



President's Message

'Tis the Season!

That may seem like an unusual greeting given that it's February, but that's what it feels like at your Tampa Garden Club! We had the best attended Combined Circles Meeting in years, we've put two Gasparilla events in the books and Darby Miller,

with her committee, is very busy planning our annual gala Valentine's event, For Love of a Garden!

It was wonderful to have six Garden Circles represented on January 8th at our Combined Circles Meeting! David Price, Chairman of the Foundation for Bok Tower Gardens, gave a beautiful slide presentation on the history and future of our Lake Wales gem. I encourage all Circle Program Chairmen to consider joining us next January. It was very nice to see so many fellow gardeners from so many different Circles.

With over 60 shifts covered during the two Gasparilla parades, it is evident we have an eager volunteer base. We had a ton of fun too! Thank you so much to all who came from near (**Carole Guyton, Founders**, walked from Hyde Park so as not to use up a valuable parking pass) and far (**Lois McLane, TNC**, car-pooled her Town N Country volunteers in her van!) without whom the Tampa Garden Club wouldn't be over \$20,000 richer. We are waiting on a few more bills to arrive, but I feel confident that our total from the two Saturdays will exceed that estimate. Please try to find time during the 2015 Gasparilla season to volunteer. **Denise Rasmussen, Amaryllis**, has offered to chair the event next year and I know she'd love your help!

So, the season continues! We can now focus fully on helping **Darby Miller, Founders**, execute her vision of The Palm Room for this year's For Love of a Garden. I know you won't want to miss an opportunity to *Jitterbug, Jive and Jam* with all your Tampa Garden Club friends. Please join us as we recognize our honorary chairs: **Becky Savitz and Carole Guyton, both of Founders**.

These two ladies have worked tirelessly on what I know you'll find will be dramatic improvements to our wedding garden when complete. This event, held on Valentine's Day every year, has become our signature fundraiser. Please join us and bring your Circle members! See you at The Palm Room!

Missy Weiner, President

FOR THE LOVE OF A GARDEN GALA

Make plans to attend the Garden Club's largest fundraiser, For the Love of a Garden, on Valentine's Day 2014. You do not want to miss this super-fun evening!

'*Jitterbug, Jive and Jam*' is this year's theme, and you can look forward to an evening full of fun period music, provided by Paul Wilborn and his Cabaret Show.

In the 1940s, Tampa featured hotels with fabulous ballrooms where friends gathered to celebrate events and to socialize. One such ballroom was The **Palm Room**, which this year's committee is promising to make reappear for one night only at: For the Love of a Garden.

This year's event will honor two celebrated Tampa gardeners, Carole Guyton and Becky Savitz, for their leadership and hard work, resulting in the renewal of the Wedding Garden located outside at the Garden Club Building on Bayshore Boulevard.

A tasty buffet of tantalizing foods will showcase the new Gonzmart Family restaurant concept, Ulele (pronounced you-lay-lee).

This restaurant will open in late Spring in the new WaterWorks development along the Hillsborough River north of downtown and will feature creative recipes using local and Florida sourced foods. This event will be the first sampling of their menu. A Silent Auction, with a treasure of one-of-a-kind items will again fill the Conservatory, an array of fun things ready to go home with you.

Put on your (vintage) dancing shoes and come to '*Jitterbug, Jive and Jam*,' Friday night, February 14, 7:00 - 10:00pm. Patron Level ticket packages are available and Individual Tickets are \$75 each.



Camp Wekiva

WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP is a residential nature camp for 3rd through 8th grade youngsters, sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC). Located less than 2 hours from Tampa, northwest of Orlando at 1800 Wekiva Circle, Apopka, FL 32712, WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP offers an unforgettable experience enjoying nature, crafts, and the beauty of the natural world in a magical, pristine setting. CRITTER CAMP is a two night mini-camp experience for those who have completed 1st & 2nd grade. Everything you wanted to know about the camp is on the website: http://www.ffgc.org/youth/camp_wekiva.html. You will **enjoy the video:** http://www.ffgc.org/youth/video_files/wekiva-movie.html.



The Tampa Garden Club has substantially supported the camp through volunteering in the activities program. Volunteers include members of **Town N Country** Garden Circle, **Lois McLane**, **Diana Sullivan**, **Donna Vetrano**, **Marcia Craig**, **Virginia Green** and **Old Fashioned** members, **Billye Hemphill**, **Jayne Hemstreet**, **Kathy Echevarria**, and **Griselda Nunez**, **Calliandra**.

Wekiva Leadership Training, March 7-9 is a wonderful opportunity for adults who may be interested in volunteering during the summer to experience the campground and program first hand. Go to http://www.ffgc.org/forms/pdf_files/wekiva_files/wekiva_leadership_training_registration.pdf to register. This fills up fast so get hoppin'. Whether you decide to volunteer this coming summer, or just go to the leadership training to have fun, you will appreciate all that FFGC has done. Tell all your friends how great Camp Wekiva is!! Tampa Garden Club offers a campership, the Dan Sweets scholarship. Contact Kathy Echevarria, 877-3357, for more information.

Tampa Heights Community Garden

The Tampa Heights Community Garden is a project of the Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles, Inc. in partnership with the neighborhood civic associations and Metropolitan Ministries. GARDEN UPDATE: With the help of USF students, the garden now is at capacity of 86 individual gardens—starting our 3rd spring.

**FLORIDA CENTER STAGE,
FFGC State Convention. April 14-16**
Bayfront Hilton, 333 1st St. South, St. Petersburg
By Kathy Echevarria

Exciting! and Enthusiastic! are words that come to mind when I think of an FFGC state convention. Those words describe the attending members as well as the ambiance engendered. The 2014 Convention opens with a Flower Show on April 14th followed by convention activities on the 15th and 16th. Entries to the state flower show are due on Sunday April 13th. Registration information for One- or Two-Day Packages is in the Winter issue of the Florida Gardener, along with a schedule of speakers and activities encompassing floral design, horticulture and environment.

Opening night entertainment is by My Three Sons, a Sarasota barbershop Quartet. Breakfast, lunch and dinner speakers include, Tampa floral designers Ian Prosser (Botanica) and Anthony Swick (Bay Bouquet); Felder Rushing of magazine and TV gardening interest; Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora Nurseries will describe his hobby that changed his life. Favorite Tampa son, Mike Echevarria, will present a program on Coral Restoration in the Florida Keys. FFGC achieved a goal of planting a reef named the FFGC Reef during 2013.

NGC President Linda Nelson will share her passion on *Making a World of Difference* in a garden club. The Breakfast of Champions and "club shirt day" will give us a chance to show off our club affiliations and celebrate with the award winners.

More information will be in the Spring issue of the Florida Gardener in early March.

Members of Tampa Garden Club are invited to be part of the convention. We have members who have volunteered to make and set table centerpieces and make gift baskets. The convention needs hostesses, help with the flower show, and other participation from circle members. Anyone wanting to participate in any capacity, please call Kathy Echevarria, 813 877-3357 or 813 240-5272 or kechev@aol.com



FLOWER SHOW by Pam Slagg

The Tampa Garden Club will participate in the state flower show this year in lieu of our local flower show. The state Flower Show, "IN THE SPOTLIGHT," will be April 14-16 at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel in St. Petersburg. **All members are encouraged to enter their horticulture.** Plants entered in the flower show must be in your possession for 3 months and registered by April 4 on the Entry Form found at www.ffgc.org, scroll down, then click on *Horticulture Registration*. The rules and categories of plants are in the *Horticulture Schedule* located on that same place on the ffgc website. Kindly click on it and spend 5 minutes looking at all the interesting categories. If you are like me, you will see several things that you have growing in your yard or balcony that could go to the "Show." If there is enough interest, we could set up a carpool to transport Horticulture from the Garden Center to St. Pete. All horticulture needs to be clearly labeled with the proper botanical name (genus, species). Include variety/cultivar when possible; common names may be added. The internet is a great source to get that information if you have the common name. The best websites are Wikipeda, Google, and Dave's Garden.

ALL qualified entries will be accepted on Sunday, April 13, 2014, from 9:00 am-11:30 am and 2:30 pm-4:30 pm. NO exceptions. Exhibitors MUST remove all entries between 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

Flower show hostesses will be needed in 3 hour shifts to be at the Flower Show. Remember, even though the Show is in St. Pete, it is hosted by District VIII of which we are members. **This is OUR Flower Show.**

This is an Advanced Show so **we need lots** of horticultural entries. Contact Pam Slagg, 813-767-2710 or 813-832-9481 or pamslagg@hotmail.com for more details or to answer your questions.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS



BILLYE HEMPHILL: You may have missed a long time member of the Tampa Garden Club recently. A lady who was past president of the Tampa Federation, a faithful volunteer at all functions, Billye Hemphill was born in Chattanooga. She first joined the Garden Club there in 1955. She was a member of the Tampa Garden Club for 35 years before she moved back to Tennessee this past summer. She served as President of Old Fashion Circle in 1999. Billye was quite involved in Floral Design in Tampa, was an instructor in Floral Design Studies and was often asked to present programs to Circles and Clubs. While living in Japan with her husband in the 1970s she studied Ikebana, both Ichiyo and Ikenobo. She is a Master Flower Show Judge. Billye held many offices for Tampa Garden Club, including Flower Show Chairman for two years. Billye loves working with children and worked with the Kids in the Garden from its beginning. She also volunteered for 8 years at Camp Wekiva, FFGC Nature Camp. We miss her guidance and expertise but are thrilled that she is enjoying living closer to her family.

SPOTLIGHT ON HORTICULTURE

This is the time of year you want to focus on removing the air potato vines from your yard. These cute little orbs are responsible for those awful, invasive potato vines.

Put the "potatoes" in the regular garbage as they will then be incinerated. **DO NOT PUT THEM IN YOUR YARD TRASH** as they will survive that and go on to produce their neverending vines.

The recent work day at the Garden Center produced buckets of these orbs, thanks to the help of the TNC Youth Council. You teens are the BEST!!



PATIO PAVERS.

By Rosemary Oravetz

One of the lovely traditions of the Tampa Garden Club is the designation of respect given to members in the patio. Individual pavers are engraved to honor a member and placed in the brick patio outside the entrance of the building.

The Patio Paver forms are in the office. Complete the form and provide a \$50 donation to the Tampa Federation of Garden Circles, Inc.

Murray Monument Company of Plant City does a beautiful job of engraving. I know your members will be pleased.

The next time you are out on the patio, take a moment to read the names of those honored there. For more information, contact Rosemarie Oravetz, 832-4311.

COMBINED CIRCLE MEETING

On Wednesday, March 5th, at 10:00 am, Craig Huegel, Ph.D., Professor at St. Pete College will give a presentation on "Using Natives in the Landscape - the Back Ten Feet".

All circles are welcome to attend this presentation. There is room for 3 or 4 garden circles to stay and have their meeting at the Garden Club. Please call the office one week prior to the presentation to let Britt know that your circle is coming so that the proper number of chairs can be set up.

The public is invited to attend. Coffee will be served. Presentations such as these offer the Tampa Garden Club the opportunity to educate the public on current topics in gardening.